

Maurice Watkins Barn

The Maurice Watkins and Persis McKee Watkins family obtained the property at 192 North 600 E from the Miles and Tillie Clyde family in about 1940.

Soon after this, Maurice, Case and Lamar Watkins, with neighbors like Grant Giles and others framed this barn from Douglas Fir timbers, 8" square. Steel and bolts hold these together. Ervin J Anderson was the sawyer for the timbers and the 1" x 10" lumber the the siding and the one inch cottonwood flooring for the horse stalls. Cottonwood resists rotting better than most wood, but has to be nailed down soon, before it starts to curl and warp. Later Ervin J Anderson cut more lumber to add to the barn space and more room onto the home. He also cut lumber for Grant Giles to build his home to the south of the Watkins home.

About 1944, Lyman was called into the service for 21 mos. Nelda and Lyman had purchased the home on west 100 S where Alvin Ivie later lived. They then, after Lyman came back from the service, built the home east of Ervin and Florence Anderson, on east center street. Then when Maurice died, Lyman and Nelda moved to 192 N 600 E. and they, with their family have lived there ever since. Lyman made many more improvements, providing stables for their horses, with mangers and hay loft--three on one side and three on the other.

The ownership of the barn, in sequence has been: Maurice Watkins, then his widow, Persis McKee Watkins, then Lyman Watkins. Then Lyman died and now his widow, Nelda, owns the barn and property.

Informant: Nelda Watkins.

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